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NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

NFIC-9.2/72
23 July 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Council Members

SUBJECT: Media Leaks

1. CIA recently sent its Headquarters employees a notice reminding them of security requirements concerning unauthorized discussions of classified information with the media, and of penalties for noncompliance. This was occasioned by the remarks of a prominent journalist invited to participate in a discussion on intelligence and the media at a seminar for senior CIA officers. The journalist assured the group that he has sources of classified information among CIA employees. He said he is sometimes assisted in spotting CIA sources by analysts in other departments and agencies who identify individuals dealing with specific issues or topics within CIA. He added that he then calls the CIA employees at their homes in the evening and finds that some of them are willing to talk.

2. If the claim is true, Intelligence Community personnel may be unthinkingly facilitating the efforts of journalists to obtain and publish classified information, thereby making it available to foreign intelligence services. CIA is responsible for ensuring that its personnel adhere to regulations governing press contacts. It would be helpful to the security of intelligence information generally if appropriate personnel in the NFIC departments and agencies were briefed on the hazards of being used by media representatives to provide referrals, and on their security obligations not to respond to media inquiries on sensitive subjects. Any media inquiries about the CIA or its activities, whether classified or unclassified, should be referred to the CIA Office of Public Affairs, 351-7676.

3. Your help in trying to reduce unnecessary discussion with the media of sensitive or potentially sensitive matters would be greatly appreciated.
(OUO)

John N. McMahon
Vice Chairman

(18 July 1984)

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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Security Committee

SECOM-D-141

11 July 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Acting Director, Intelligence Community Staff

FROM:

[Redacted]

Chairman

SUBJECT:

Media Leaks

[Redacted]

1. Action Requested: That you sign, as Vice Chairman, National Foreign Intelligence Council (NFIC), a memorandum to NFIC members alerting them to a security problem and asking their assistance in remedying it. [Redacted]

2. Background and Discussion: This spring, journalist Philip Taubman participated in a discussion on intelligence and the media as part of a seminar for new SIS officers. Taubman told the group that he has sources of information among CIA employees, and that he is steered to them by analysts in other Community organizations. After this information was provided to you, a Headquarters Notice (copy attached) was sent out to remind all employees of their security obligations and penalties for noncompliance. [Redacted]

3. Taubman's claim that persons in other departments and agencies help him by providing names of CIA analysts working on particular problems shows the need to notify the Community of the security hazards involved in providing such leads, and to ask NFIC Members to instruct their personnel not to respond to media inquiries on sensitive subjects. A proposed memorandum to do so is attached. Since Taubman specifically mentioned State Department analysts as sources of leads to CIA personnel, you may wish to contact the Director, INR, informally to reinforce the message in the proposed memorandum. [Redacted]

(U) 4. Recommendation: That you sign the attached proposed memorandum.

[Redacted]

Attachments:

A. [Redacted]

B. Proposed memorandum

[Redacted]

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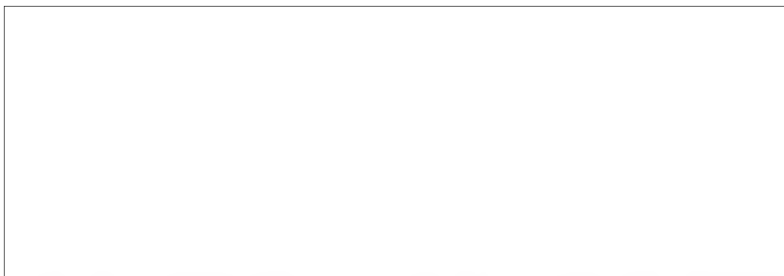
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SECOM-D-141

SUBJECT: Media Leaks



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Acting Director, Intelligence Community Staff

Date

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NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

18 JUL 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Council Members

SUBJECT: Media Leaks

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1. CIA recently sent its Headquarters employees a notice reminding them of security requirements concerning unauthorized discussions of classified information with the media, and of penalties for noncompliance. This was occasioned by the remarks of a prominent journalist invited to participate in a discussion on intelligence and the media at a seminar for senior CIA officers. The journalist assured the group that he has sources of classified information among CIA employees. He said he is sometimes assisted in spotting CIA sources by analysts in other departments and agencies who identify individuals dealing with specific issues or topics within CIA. He added that he then calls the CIA employees at their homes in the evening and finds that some of them are willing to talk.

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2. If the claim is true, Intelligence Community personnel may be unthinkingly facilitating the efforts of journalists to obtain and publish classified information, thereby making it available to foreign intelligence services. CIA is responsible for ensuring that its personnel adhere to regulations governing press contacts. It would be helpful to the security of intelligence information generally if appropriate personnel in the NFIC departments and agencies were briefed on the hazards of being used by media representatives to provide referrals, and on their security obligations not to respond to media inquiries on sensitive subjects. Any media inquiries about the CIA or its activities, whether classified or unclassified, should be referred to the CIA Office of Public Affairs, 351-7676.

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3. Your help in trying to reduce unnecessary discussion with the media of sensitive or potentially sensitive matters would be greatly appreciated.

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/S/ John N. McMahon

John N. McMahon
Vice Chairman

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This Notice Expires 1 November 1984

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

12 April 1984

MEDIA LEAKS

Reference:

No Field Counterpart to this HN.

1. At a recent Agency training course for senior officers, a prominent journalist participated in a discussion on intelligence and the media. Among other things, he assured the group that he has sources of classified information among CIA employees. He said he is sometimes assisted in spotting CIA sources by analysts in other departments and agencies who tell him of individuals dealing with specific issues or topics within the Agency. He then calls the CIA employees at home in the evening and finds that some of them are willing to talk.

2. This revelation is shocking. Agency regulations, security indoctrinations, and the very environment in which we live leave no doubt in the minds of employees that unauthorized discussions with the media about classified information are a serious breach of security and trust of employment.

3. Employees are reminded that under the terms of Release of Agency Information to Representatives of the Public Information Media, all inquiries, whether official or unofficial, from representatives of the media must be referred to the Public Affairs Office. This policy is firm. Employees who are discovered violating this policy expose themselves to harsh administrative penalties, including termination of employment.

Harry E. Fitzwater
Deputy Director
for
Administration

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ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

SECOM-D-141, 11 July 1984

Prepared by: SECOM [redacted] 11 July 84, [redacted]

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